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**Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade
and development**

Note verbale dated 13 October 2003 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to transmit herewith, for circulation to the Second Committee, the communiqué issued in Buenos Aires on 10 October 2003 on the occasion of the meeting to evaluate the outcome of the conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in Cancún, Mexico (see annex).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 13 October 2003 from the
Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the General Assembly**

Declaration

The Ministers and Representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Mexico, Paraguay, South Africa and Venezuela met in Buenos Aires to examine the perspectives of trade negotiations after the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference held in Cancún, with a view to the meeting that will take place in Geneva no later than 15 December 2003.

We reaffirm the importance of the full functioning of the multilateral trading system and of WTO. The organization — which has almost universal membership — must continue to work on the basis of consensus and of respect for the rights of all its members.

We agree that the multilateral trading system is essential in order to continue with the trade liberalization process on a fair and equitable basis. The goal of such a process should be the growth of developing countries through the enhancement of their participation in world trade.

Development is the fundamental issue in the Doha Round and agriculture is at the centre of the negotiations. We are determined to complete the reform process and to fully integrate agriculture into the WTO disciplines.

In spite of the efforts made by the WTO members at the Ministerial Conference in Cancún, it was not possible to make substantial progress in the negotiations. We urge members to participate in a constructive manner in the discussion of all the issues of the Doha Agenda, and we stress the importance of focusing on priority issues for improving the living standards of developing and least developed countries.

We call upon all members to resume the work in Geneva in a constructive spirit, based on the positive developments at Cancún; to support the efforts by the President of the General Council and by the Director General in that regard, and to foster convergence towards a fair and generally acceptable outcome. In this respect, we commit ourselves to personally engage insofar as this contributes to facilitate the negotiations in Geneva.

Buenos Aires, 10 October 2003